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Message Text

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45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /114 W
---------- 069182
R 120952Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6430
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MY
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN STUDENTS ORGANIZE YOUTH ACTION FRONT

1. SUMMARY: THE NATIONAL UNION OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS (NUMS) HAS SET UP AN ACTION FRONT TO DEAL WITH QUOTE NATIONAL AND INTER-NATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY UNQUOTE. NEW ACTION FRONT REPRESENTS ATTEMPT BY STUDENTS TO ORGANIZE FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION PLUS NATIONALIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES GOM WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS UNOBTRUSIVELY EXERCISED CONTROL OVER STUDENT ACTIVISM MAY FEEL IMPELLED TO BLOCK NEW FRONT. CRUNCH WILL COME WHEN FRONT TRIES TO REGISTER WITH REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL UNION OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS (NUMS OF PKPM) TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL UNION OF MUSLIM STUDENTS (NUMMS OR PKPIM) AND FEDERATION OF PENINSULAR MALAY STUDENTS (GPMS) HAS ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A STUDENT ACTION FRONT TO COORDINATE ACTION ON
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INTERNATIONAL, NATAIONAL, AND ACADEMIC ISSUES. IT CLAIMS TO

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REPRESENT 40,000 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY.

3. NUMS LEADER, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR NEW FRONT, CALLED UPON
THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT INFLATION BY: (1) SETTING UP A SYSTEM
OF PRICE CONTROLS; (2) CHANGING THE EXPORT-ORIENTED NATURE
OF THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY; AND (3) NATIONALIZING NATURAL
RESOURCES. IN CALLING FOR THE NATIONALIZATION NUMS PRESIDENT
MADE THE POINT THAT COMPENSATION SHOULD BE CONSIDRED BY THE
GOVERNMENT AND THAT NUMS WAS NOT ADVOCATING THE CONFISCATION OF
PROPERTY.

4. GOM HAS NOT YET REACTED TO FORMATION OF NEW FRONT, BUT,
SINCE EVENTS IN THAILAND, GOM OFFICIALS DEALING WITH STUDENTS
HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LEFT-WING INFLUENCE IN STUDENT
MOVEMENT. GOM'S UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT
STATES QUOTE NO STUDENTS' COUNCIL, FACULTY STUDENTS ORGANIZA-
TION OR ANY BODY OR GROUP OF STUDENTS OF A UNIVERSITY SHALL
HAVE ANY AFFILIATION WITH, OR SHALL DO ANYTHING WHICH CAN BE
CONSTRUED AS EXPRESSING SUPPORT, SYMPATHY OR OPPOSITION TO ANY
POLITICAL PARTY... UNQUOTE. NEW ACTION FRONT APPEARS TO BE
OVERTLY POLITICAL AND GOM MAY REFUSE TO REGISTER IT ON GROUNDS
IT VIOLATES ACT.

5. COMMENT: STAYING POWER OF NEW STUDENT GROUP MUST BE
CONSIDERED DUBIOUS, EVEN WITHOUT A FRONTAL ATTACK BY THE
GOVERNMENT, IN THAT IT REPRESENTS MANY DIFFERENT FACTIONS
INCLUDING RADICAL UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA STUDENTS' UNION AND
RELATIVELY MODERATE UNIVERSITY KEBANGSAAN (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY)
STUDENTS' UNION. KEBANGSAAN AND MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT LEADERS HAVE SO FAR ASSUMED PUBLIC LEADERSHIP ROLE
WITH RADICALS REMAINING IN THE BACKGROUND. BECAUSE OF UNEASE
OVER EVENTS IN THAILAND AND INDONESIA GOM MAY CHOOSE TO CRACK-
DOWN AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF STUDENT ACTIVISM. MALAY
LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "UTASAN MALAYSIA" IN AN EDITORIAL WELCOMING
THE NEW STUDENT FRONT CAUTIONED IT AGAINST BEING INFLUENCED
BY EVENTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, POLICIES, STUDENT GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUALA01096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740351/aaaabvks.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN STUDENTS ORGANIZE YOUTH ACTION FRONT
TAGS: PINT, MY, NUMS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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